

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: PG:74B-23 **Construction Date:** circa 1900, circa 1945

Name: Poula Property

Location: 3111 Mill Branch Road, Mitchellville vicinity, Prince George's County

Private/Agriculture, Private Residence/Occupied/Good/Restricted

Description:

The Poula Property is located on the northeast side of Mill Branch Road east of U.S. 301 in the Mitchellville vicinity of Prince George's County. The early-twentieth century farm consists of a circa 1900 main house, a circa 1945 tenant house, eight sheds and three barns. The wood-frame main house has an I-house design with an enclosed front porch, a rear ell and a rear addition. The tenant house, also constructed of wood frame, is a vernacular residence with a deck and rear shed addition.

Significance:

The Poula Property is an example of a late-nineteenth century to early-twentieth century farmstead. The complex contains typical vernacular buildings of this time period, including an I-house, sheds and barns. The property is located in an area of Prince George's County that remains rural and agricultural. The Poula family has owned the property since 1886. The Poula Property is typical of small, family farms in this area of Prince George's County. The property lacks buildings of architectural or historical significance.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Poula Property (preferred)

and/or common Terry Property

2. Location

street & number 3111 Mill Branch Road

___ not for publication

city, town Mitchellville

☒ vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category☐ district☒ building(s)☐ structure☐ site☐ object**Ownership**☐ public☒ private☐ both**Public Acquisition**☐ in process☐ being considered☒ not applicable**Status**☒ occupied☐ unoccupied☐ work in progress**Accessible**☒ yes: restricted☐ yes: unrestricted☐ no**Present Use**☒ agriculture☐ commercial☐ educational☐ entertainment☐ government☐ industrial☐ military☐ museum☐ park☒ private residence☐ religious☐ scientific☐ transportation☐ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Catherine and Thomas Terry

street & number 3111 Mill Branch Road

telephone no.:

city, town Mitchellville

state and zip code MD 20716

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Land Records Office of Prince George's County

liber 8150

street & number 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive

folio 143

city, town Upper Marlboro

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. PG:74B-23

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved

date of move _____

Resource Count: 13

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Poula Property is located on the northeast side of Mill Branch Road east of U.S. 301 in the Mitchellville vicinity of Prince George's County. The early-twentieth century farm consists of a circa 1900 main house, a circa 1945 tenant house, eight sheds and three barns. The wood-frame main house has an I-house design with an enclosed front porch, a rear ell and a rear addition. The tenant house, also constructed of wood frame, is a vernacular residence with a deck and rear shed addition.

The 2 ½-story, 3-bay I-house has a concrete-block foundation and asbestos-shingle siding. The side-gable roof is covered in asphalt shingle and has a center gable on the front (southwest) elevation. The roof has a modern, boxed cornice. A brick chimney is located in the center of the house. The 2/2 double-hung windows are original.

A 1-story, full-width porch covers the front, or southwest elevation. The porch has a hipped roof and has been enclosed in asbestos shingles and modern, awning windows. Within the porch, the main entry is located in the center bay. The half-glass door has 3-light sidelights but no transom. A window is located on each side of the door. Three windows are evenly spaced across the second story. A diamond-shaped window is located in the center gable.

On the northwest elevation, two windows are symmetrically-arranged on each story of the main block. The northwest wall of the ell is flush with this elevation. The ell has one window on the first story and two windows on the second story.

On the northeast elevation, the ell has a single window on the first story. A 1-story, hipped-roof addition extends from the southeast wall of the ell. The addition has a 1-light casement window on this elevation. A small, enclosed portico containing an entry is located on the first story of the main block. A single window is located on the second story.

On the southeast elevation, two windows are symmetrically-arranged on each story of the main block. The 1-story addition has an entry, a 3-light awning window and a 1-light casement window. Two windows are symmetrically-arranged on the second story of the ell.

This residence has several features common to I-houses. They include a 2-story, 1-pile, center-passage plan, a full-width front porch, a rear ell and a center gable.

Eight small sheds are arranged around the main house. Shed 1, located northeast of the house, is constructed of concrete block and has a side-gable roof. This shed has an entrance on the southwest. Sheds 2 and 3 are located southeast of the house. Shed 2 is covered in board-and-batten siding and has a front-gable roof. Paneled, double doors face northwest. Shed 3 is covered in horizontal weatherboard and has a shed roof. This shed has a large, corrugated-metal addition on the northeast side.

Sheds 4, 5 and 6 are located southwest of the house. Shed 4 is covered in tar paper and has a front-gable roof. Shed 5 is covered in board-and-batten siding and has a front-gable roof. This shed is open on the southwest side. Shed 6 is constructed of concrete block and has a side-gable roof. This shed has an entrance on the northeast side and is currently used for firewood storage.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Poula Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:74B-23

ADDRESS: 3111 Mill Branch Rd., Mitchellville vicinity, Prince George's County

7. Description (Continued)

Sheds 7 and 8 are located southeast of sheds 2 and 3. Shed 7 is covered in corrugated metal and board-and-batten siding. This shed has an entry on the southeast side and a shed roof. Shed 8 is covered in corrugated metal and has a shed roof. This shed is open on the southeast side.

Southeast of the main house and sheds are three early-twentieth century barns. Barn 1 faces northwest. It is covered in corrugated-metal and has a front-gable roof. Batten doors are located on the northwest, northeast and southeast elevations. Barn 2 is covered in board-and-batten siding and has a front-gable, corrugated-metal roof. This barn has batten doors at different levels on the northwest and southwest elevations. An integral comcrib is located in the southwest corner. A concrete-block shed addition extends from the southeast elevation of this barn. The addition is open on the northeast side. A corrugated-metal addition, open on the northwest corner, extends southeast from the shed. Barn 3, a tobacco barn, is covered in vertical board and has a corrugated-metal, front-gable roof. A large shed addition is located on the northeast elevation. This is the largest of the three barns.

A circa 1945 tenant house is located at the western corner of the property. The 2-bay, 1-story tenant house has a concrete-block foundation and wood weatherboard walls. The side-gable roof is covered in asphalt shingle and has a shallow, boxed cornice. The house has modern windows and doors. A modern deck stretches across the front, or southwest elevation, while an early shed addition covers the northwest elevation.

The Poula Property occupies a 17 hectare (42 acre) parcel on the northeast side of Mill Branch Road. The property is currently used for agricultural purposes. The main house, sheds and barn are approached by a long lane leading northeast from Mill Branch Road. The lane turns southeast and is lined with deciduous trees as it approaches the complex. Large trees are placed around the complex. The tenant house and a small pond are located northwest of the intersection of Mill Branch Road and the lane. The surrounding land east of U.S. 301 is still open and agricultural.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG:74B-23

Period	Areas of Significance – Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates circa 1900, circa 1945

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Poula Property is located on land purchased by Frank Poula in 1886. Poula paid \$500 for two tracts known as "Quarter Plantation" and "Basford". The tracts together comprised 109.4 hectares (270.25 acres). Frank Poula died in 1929, leaving his wife Ernestina a life estate on the farm. In 1942, Ernestina Poula sold 22 hectares (54.25 acres) including the farm complex to Anthony B. and Mary Madeline Poula. This property was sold to the current owner, Catherine Poula Terry, in 1971. The current parcel includes 17 hectares (42 acres).

The Poula Property includes an example of an I-house. The standard I-house is one room deep and two stories tall with three to five openings on each story. Chimneys are most often located on the interior of the gable ends, however, some I-houses can have central or exterior chimneys. Usually, an I-house has a one-story porch running the length or nearly the length of the long side. In the interior, a central hall separates the two rooms on the first floor; the second floor contains either two or four sleeping chambers. Due to the narrowness of the main core, many I-houses have kitchen wings to the rear. During the Victorian period, pre-cut detailing or a two-tiered porch was commonly grafted onto the traditional I-house. The I-form was popular into the early twentieth century, with examples appearing in catalogs of mass-produced suburban houses (Gowans 1992: 55-6).

The Poula Property includes several sheds and barns. Sheds are small utilitarian buildings used for the storage of non-food items, such as small tools, chemicals, or machines. Sometimes equipment, such as generators or oil tanks, is sheltered in sheds. They are often built to supplement the storage space available in structures designed for a specific function such as animal shelter, food storage, or food production. These multi-purpose sheds are difficult to categorize because of their simple building form and resemblance to other outbuildings. Most sheds are small wood-frame structures with gable roofs and few wall openings. Sheds are likely to be associated with domestic properties, as well as agricultural properties.

The barn was the principal building constructed on a farm and provided space for cows, horses, equipment, feed and tobacco. The size of barns increased throughout the nineteenth century as the introduction of improved equipment led to more efficient and profitable operations, and consequently the need for more storage (Grow 1985, 60, 76). Some barns had specialized designs reflecting the need for dairy production, grain storage or tobacco curing. The production of tobacco created the need for a barn designed for the special storage and "curing" of the crop. The structures were long, wooden buildings with a gable roof. The interior had a central aisle and was divided into compartments by a network of wooden beams and "tie-poles." From these beams the tobacco was hung and allowed to naturally air-dry. To facilitate the curing process, the barns were designed with several methods of ventilation. Many barns had windows or ventilators near the roof ridge, while others had vertical-board siding which was hinged for vent openings or loosely spaced. Another common feature was the elevation of the barn on "legs" which provided air circulation from below the barn (Caravan 1995: 37). Tobacco barns developed in America as a result of the processes used for the production of the crop and evolved as an American form from local influences.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Poula Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:74B-23

ADDRESS: 3111 Mill Branch Rd., Mitchellville vicinity, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

The Poula Property, constructed circa 1900, is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. While the property is associated with agriculture in Prince George's County, it does not include any outstanding agricultural buildings, nor is it exemplary of a particular trend in agriculture. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore it does not meet Criterion B. The property is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is a common type of which better examples exist. The main house on the property does have the major features of an I-house, however the addition of asbestos siding, the enclosure of the porch, and other alterations have compromised the integrity of the property.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____
Comments _____

Eligibility Not Recommended XX

Reviewer, OPS: [Signature]
Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature]

Date: 07/20/99
Date: 4/14/00

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG:74B-23

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Bowie, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Julie Darsie

organization P A C Spero & Company

date November, 1998

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Poula Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:74B-23

ADDRESS: 3111 Mill Branch Rd., Mitchellville vicinity, Prince George's County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Caravan, Jill. 1995. *American Bams, A Pictorial History*. Philadelphia: Courage Books.

Gowans, Alan. 1992. *Styles and Types of North American Architecture*. New York: Icon Editions.

Grow, Lawrence. 1985. *Country Architecture*. Pittstown, NJ: Main Street Press.

Prince George's County Land Records Office. County Administration Building. Upper Marlboro, MD.

Prince George's County Office of Assessments and Taxation. Prince George's County Courthouse. Upper Marlboro, MD.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

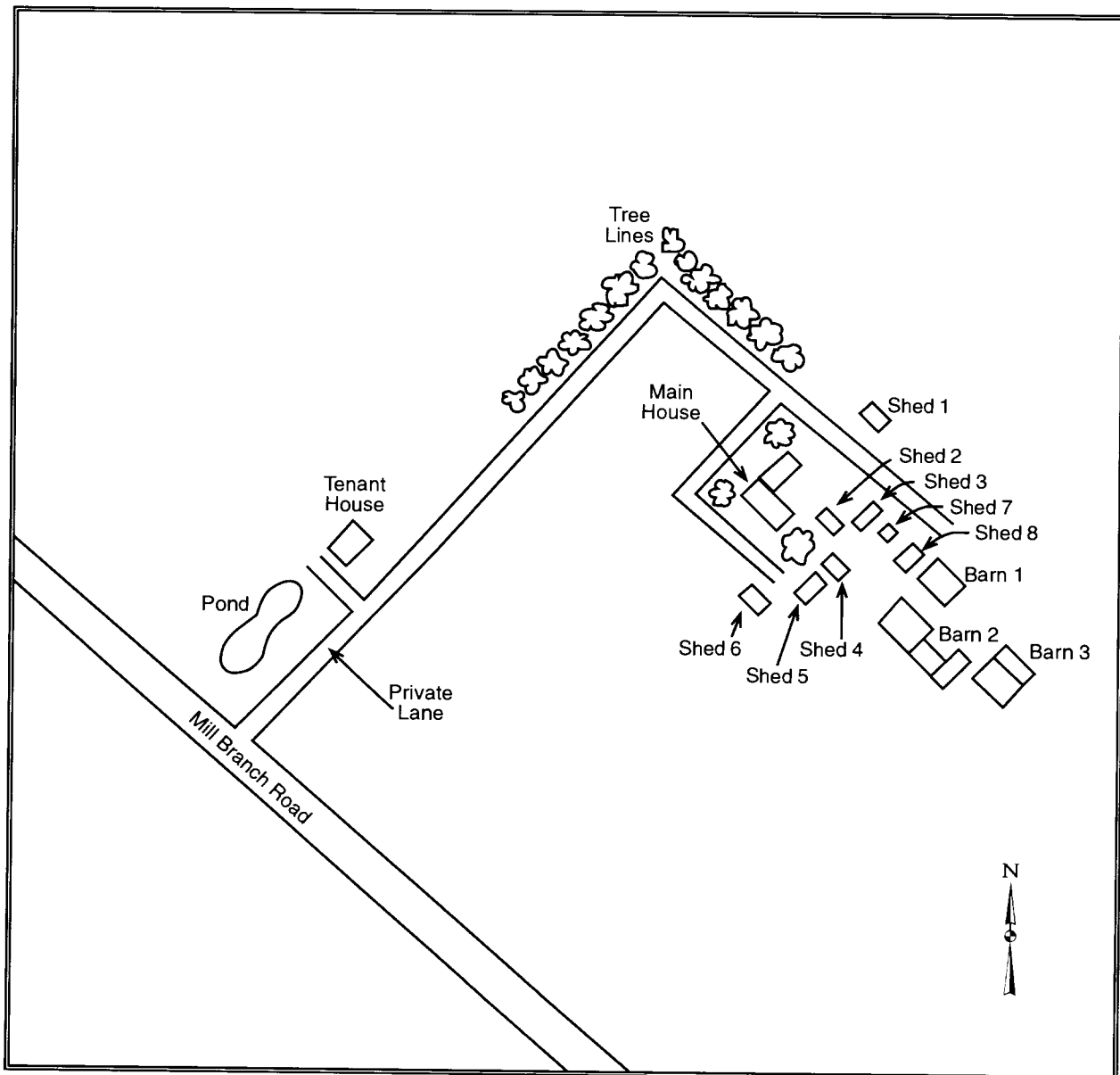
RESOURCE NAME: Poula Property

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ADDRESS: 3111 Mill Branch Road, Mitchellville Vicinity, Prince George's County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



CONTINUATION SHEET

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Poula Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:74B-23

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Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Modern Period, A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Agriculture

Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Buildings

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Agriculture

Private Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer

P.A.C. Spero & Company

November 1998

BOWIE

U.S. 301 South Corridor
Transportation Study

Survey # Pg: 74B-23
Property Name POULA PROPERTY
Town/County MITCHELLVILLE VICINITY
Quadrangle BOWIE, MD

